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history of the higher criticism, with its new interpretation of the Scriptures. On the whole, it is a readable, reliable book, made especially attractive by the numerous full-page illustrations in color.

A NEW THEORY CONCERNING THE ORIGIN OF THE MIRACLE PLAY. By George R. Coffman. University of Chicago Dissertation. Menosha, Wisconsin: George Banta Publishing Company.

The author defines a Miracle Play as "the dramatization of a legend setting fourth the life or the martyrdom of a saint." After briefly summarizing and rejecting the traditional theories which found the germ of the Miracle Play in the Church services, Mr. Coffman treats at some length the cult of the saints, including pilgrimages and festivals in their honor. Though admitting that the Church had a large share in the growth of such pilgrimages and festivals, and that "the immediate environment of the Miracle Play in its origin is the monastery," he emphasizes the "unecclesiastical" influences of the mediæval renaissance, and asserts, with little direct evidence to support his assertions, that "our earliest Miracle Plays developed in connection with monastic schools," and that these plays were "one expression of the eleventh and twelfth-century movement to free the drama from the Church." More specifically Mr. Coffman, again basing his conclusion on assumption rather than fact, declares that "the Miracle Play originated as an unecclesiastical feature of St. Nicholas' feast-day celebration." Attractive and probable as such theories are, they should be supported by greater weight of evidence than that brought forward in this pamphlet. Mr. Coffman promises to make further investigations into the subject and will doubtless bring out additional material to strengthen or modify his position.

THE EVERYMAN ENCYCLOPÆDIA. Compiled by Andrew Boyle. In twelve volumes. New York: E. P. Dutton & Company. \$6.00.

This handy set of reference books is based on Knight's Encyclopædia, which in its turn was derived from the great Penny Encyclopædia. The original basis, however, had to be so altered